

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a housing having a passage and a piston sealing element positioned within said passage, the valve adapted for connection to said second medical implement and having an opening adapted to receive said first medical implement, the piston sealing element having a first position in which said piston sealing element prevents fluid flow through said valve and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said valve, said passage including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected to generate a positive flow of fluid in the direction of said second medical implement, wherein said housing further comprises at least one screw thread on an outside surface of said housing.

9. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 8, wherein a ledge is positioned within said passage.

10. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 9, wherein said piston comprises a shoulder which engages said ledge when said sealing element is in said first position.

11. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 8, wherein said piston sealing element comprises a rigid material.

12. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 11, further comprising wherein said sealing element comprises at least one o-ring attached to said piston.

13. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 8, wherein said piston sealing element additionally comprises a neck and a head, said neck having a reduced diameter as compared to said head.

14. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 8, wherein said passage comprises a first end and a second end, said first end having a smaller diameter than said second end.

15. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 8, wherein a portion of said housing limits the advancement of the first medical implement into said passage.

16. (Currently Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a housing having a passage in communication with a second medical implement and an opening adapted to receive said first medical implement, a rigid piston ~~sealing element~~ positioned within said housing and movable between a first position in which fluid flow is prevented through said housing and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said housing, said passage including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected to generate a positive flow of fluid in the direction of said second medical implement, wherein said housing comprises at least one screw thread for detachably securing said first medical implement to said valve.

17. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 16, wherein said at least one screw thread is located on an outside surface of said housing.

18. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 16, wherein a portion of said housing limits the advancement of the first medical implement into said cavity.

19. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 16, further comprising wherein said sealing element comprises at least one o-ring attached to said piston.

20. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 16, wherein said piston ~~sealing element~~ additionally comprises a neck and a head, said neck having a reduced diameter as compared to said head.

21. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 16, wherein said passage comprises a first end and a second end, said first end having a smaller diameter than said second end.

22. (Currently Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve

comprising a housing having a passage in communication with a second medical implement and an opening adapted to receive said first medical implement, a rigid piston sealing element positioned within said housing and movable between a first position in which fluid flow is prevented through said housing and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said housing, said passage including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected to generate a positive flow of fluid in the direction of said second medical implement.

23. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 22, wherein a portion of said housing limits the advancement of the first medical implement into said cavity.

24. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 22, further comprising wherein said sealing element comprises at least one o-ring attached to said piston.

25. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 22, wherein said piston sealing element additionally comprises a neck and a head, said neck having a reduced diameter as compared to said head.

26. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 22, wherein said passage comprises a first end and a second end, said first end having a smaller diameter than said second end.

27. (Previously Added) The medical valve of Claim 22, wherein a ledge is positioned within said passage.

28. (Currently Amended) The medical valve of Claim 27, wherein said piston sealing element comprises a shoulder which engages said ledge when said sealing element is in said first position.